

REMARKS

Upon entry of this response, claims 1, 3-5, 10, 12-14, 16-20, and 22-26 will be amended and claims 27-28 will be canceled. As a result, claims 1-26 will remain pending. The claims have been amended solely to expedite prosecution of the present application, and no new matter has been added. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the originally filed claims.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants have updated the “Cross-Reference to Related Applications” section of the specification in view of the Examiner’s helpful comments.

Similarly, claims 5 and 20 have been amended and claim 27 has been canceled in response to the 35 USC §§ 112 and 101 rejections.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1-17

As amended, claim 1 recites limitations similar to those previously presented in claim 18, which stands rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,098,066 (“Snow”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,510,434 (“Anderson”).

According to claim 1, a set of content selection tags is established based on information received from a content reader. Each content selection tag is associated with a hierarchical tag domain (e.g., as illustrated in FIGS. 4 and 5 of the present application). It is then arranged for the content reader to receive an indication of a document in accordance with the set of content selection tags.

In addition, claim 1 recites “storing the set of content selection tags in association with the content reader.” Such a feature is described, for example, at page 14, lines 3-12 of the present application. In this way, the same set of content selection tags might later be retrieved and used to find documents for the reader (e.g., on a different day).

According to the Office Action, Snow teaches such a feature at col. 8, lines 55-57. The relevant portion of Snow is reproduced here for convenience:

Upon completion of the undirected search, a user may choose to quit at step 116. If the user does not choose to quit, the user enters another user query at step 102 and the loop is repeated. Therefore, the user may select appropriate categories, alter the search terms, and re-run the search.

Applicants respectfully suggest that Snow and Anderson do not remotely disclose “storing” the set of queries provided by the user nor storing the queries “in association with” the user as now recited in claim 1. That is, the system described in Snow lets a single user perform multiple searches, but it does not save the search terms in association with that user (instead, he or she can enter an altered search term and re-run a search).

Moreover, Applicants respectfully suggest that there is insufficient motivation to combine these references. In rejecting claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the Examiner bears the initial burden of presenting a *prima facie* case of obviousness. According to the Office Action, it would have been obvious to modify Snow with the hierarchical tags of Anderson “to perform a search in an efficient manner and support searching in multiple databases” (Office Action, page 4 at first full paragraph). Nothing in Anderson, nor Snow, suggests modifying a system such as the one described in Snow to produce a method as recited in claim 1. Because there is no teaching or suggestion to modify the references in this way, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

Claims 2-17 depend from claim 1 and should also be allowable for these reasons.

Claims 18 and 24-26

Claims 18 and 24 as amended recite that the set of content selection tags is further stored “in association with a reader-defined name.” For example, as illustrated in FIG. 4 of the present application, a reader might type a “Selection Tag Set Name” 440 via a graphical user interface to define the name and then activate a Save icon 445 to store the set of content selection tags in association with that name.

Applicants respectfully suggest that none of the references disclose or suggest such a feature.

Claims 19 and 21-22

Claim 19 further recites that a “second set of content selection tags” may be established and stored “in association with the content reader.”

For example, as illustrated in FIG. 9 of the present application, a content reader might define a first set of content selection tags identified as “STS-1001” and a second set of content selection tags identified as “STS-1002.” In this way, a content reader can later access different types of pre-defined searches monitor different types of information.

Claim 19 has also been amended to make it clear that different readers can create and store different sets of content selection tags.

Applicants respectfully suggest that none of the references disclose or suggest such features.

Claims 20 and 23

Claims 20 and 23 further recite that a “first portion of a reader display” is associated with the first set of content selection tags and a “second portion of the reader display” is associated with the second set of content selection tags.

For example, as illustrated in FIG. 11 of the present application, the left side of a screen might display the results of a first pre-defined search (named “Sherlund and Microsoft”) while the right side displays the results of a second pre-defined search (named “Greene and Pepsi”).

According to the Office Action, U.S. Patent No. 5,717,914 (“Husick”) discloses such a feature in FIG. 4B. Applicants respectfully disagree and suggest that all of the portions of the display illustrated in FIG. 4B are associated with a single search (e.g., “Who was James Doohan?” as illustrated in FIG. 4A).

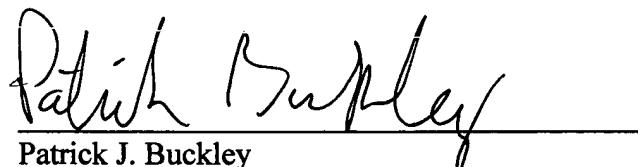
Applicants also note that the features described above in connection with claims 18-26 (e.g., saving and naming multiple pre-defined searches for multiple readers and displaying different types of search results in different portions of a display) would serve no purpose in

Snow, Anderson, or Husick. Those references are directed to systems in which a user finds a particular pre-existing item of information of interest (e.g., "Who was James Doohan?") whereas the present invention may be used to monitor types of information (defined by a reader) as it becomes available (e.g., certain types of financial information associated with a particular industry).

C O N C L U S I O N

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-0191.

Respectfully submitted,



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